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Westminster, December 18.

HER Majesty came this Day to the House of Peers; and being in Her Royal Robes seated on the Throne, with the usual Solemnity, Mr. *Aston*, Deputy Gentleman-Usher of the Black Rod, was sent with a Message from Her Majesty to the House of Commons, requiring their Attendance in the House of Peers. The Commons being come thither accordingly, Her Majesty was pleased to give the Royal Assent to

An Act for granting an Aid to Her Majesty, to be raised by a Land-Tax in Great Britain, *for the Service of the Year* 1708.

An Act for repealing and declaring the Determination of Two Acts passed in the Parliament of Scotland, *the one Entituled, Act for Security of the Kingdom, the other, Act anent Peace and War.*

An Act for better securing the Duties of East-India *Goods.*

After which Her Majesty was pleased to make a most Gracious Speech to both Houses, which follows:

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Am very well pleased with the Occasion of My coming hither at this Time, and desirous to take this Opportunity of expressing to you the Satisfaction I have in seeing so good a Progress made in the Publick Business.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I am extreamly sensible of the Readiness and Affection with which you have provided so considerable a Part of the Supplies.

As I am fully perswaded it must needs give the greatest Satisfaction to all our Allies, so I look upon it as a sure Pledge of your being Disposed to make good those hearty Assurances which you gave Me in the Beginning of the Session.

I told you, at the Opening of this Parliament, that I did Hope you would look upon the Services relating to Spain, Portugal, *and the Army under the Command of the Duke of* Savoy, *to be of so much Importance in the Prosecution of this War, that they might deserve an Augmentation; which I cannot but think will be of the greatest Use to the Common Cause, both with Regard to those particular Services, and to the putting Our Selves in a Condition to Improve such favourable Opportunities as may arise in the ensuing Year.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I shall only add, That as nothing is more Essential to My own Quiet, and the Happiness of all My Good Subjects, than the bringing this War to a Safe and Honourable Conclusion, so I must think My Self obliged to look upon all those who are Willing and Desirous to Support Me in it for Attaining that End, as the most proper Objects of My Favour and Encouragement.

I cannot Conclude without once more Recommending to you to Confirm and Improve the Advantages of Our Happy Union; not doubting but, at the same time, you will have a due Regard to what shall be found Necessary for Preserving the Publick Peace throughout the whole Island of Great Britain.

Westminster, Dec. 20. This Day Her Majesty being come to the House of Peers, and seated on the Throne in Her Royal Robes, gave Her Royal Assent to

An Act for charging and continuing the Duties upon Malt, Mum, Cyder, and Perry, for the Service of the Year 1708.

Lisbon, Dec. 13. *N. S.* This Court is still busy in reforming several publick Abuses. The Garison of Elvas gained lately a considerable Booty from that of Badajox by Stratagem: A Party of 50 Men marched in the Night close to the Walls of that Town, where several Thousand Sheep and Oxen were feeding; our Men began to drive them off in very great Herds and Flocks; whereupon the Enemy took the Alarm, but our Party, who had prepar'd for such an Accident a great Number of Drums and Trumpets, beat and sounded together in such a Manner, that the Garison, supposing a proportionable Number of Troops before the Town, did not think fit to make a Sally, but stood to their Arms within their Walls till the Break of Day, by which Time the Portuguese had carried off their Prey to Elvas.

Turin, Dec. 10. They Wind has blown so violently for some Days, that it has done very much Damage to this Country, especially at Rivoli, a Village not far from hence, which was anciently the Seat of the Dukes of Savoy; where, during the tempestuous Weather, a Fire unhappily broke out, and burnt down several Houses. Prince Eugene hath left the Administration of Civil Affairs of the Milanese to the Care of the Great Chancellor of that Dutchy; and the Management of all Matters relating to the War to General Visconti, who is the eldest Officer in his Imperial Majesty's Service in Lombardy. We hear from Genoa, That the Men of War and Transports designed to convoy and carry the Troops to Catalonia, are still detained there by contrary Winds. Those Advices add, That Baron Rhebender, who commanded in Chief the Palatine Troops designed for Spain, had received a Courier from Dusseldorp, with the Elector's Leave to enter into the Service of his Royal Highness, with whom that Officer is in high Esteem for his Bravery and Conduct at the Battle of Turin. It is said, That the Elector Palatine hath been pleased to give his Regiment of Guards, formerly commanded by Baron Rhebender, to the Count of Lecheraine, who arriv'd at Genoa with the last Ships from Barcelona. Letters from Leghorn say, That Sir Thomas Dilks was safely arrived there, after having suffered some Damage by ill Weather. He was refitting his Ships, and doubted not but he should be ready time enough to join the Convoy with the Troops off of Final or Vado, where he hath appointed their Rendezvous in case they should be separated before he can come up to them. The Regiment of Wolfembuttel, which hath served here in the Emperor's Pay, is ordered to march for Germany.

Venice, Dec. 9. The Electress of Bavaria, the Duke of Mantua, and some other Persons of Quality, who had been absent for some time, are returned hither. The Republick intends to send Cardinal Cornaro to Rome, who is to reside there in Behalf of this State. General Steinau, who commands all our Forces, is come to Venice. Letters from Rome say, That the Duke of Atri, who defended Pescara, was arrived there; and that about 2000 Men were on their March for Naples, to recruit the Imperial Regiments in that Kingdom. We hear from thence, That 1000 Germans and other regular Troops have been embarked there on board several small Vessels, under the Command of General Vetzel. Among many other Conjectures concerning the Design of this Expedition, it is the Opinion of some that it is intended to take Possession of several Spanish Harbours in Tuscany. They have begun to sell the Estate which the Prince di Santo Buono, the Spanish Ambassador to this Republick, hath in the Kingdom of Naples. General Thaun hath adorn'd the great Palace, which is the Residence of the Viceroys, with the Furniture of the Prince of Calamara, who was taken Prisoner at Gaeta, and is now confin'd in the Castle of St. Elmo. The Prince Ernest of Hanover, who hath been here a considerable Time, left this Place some Days ago, in order to return to the Court of Hanover.

Hague, Dec. 27. *N. S.* On the 25th Instant the Hereditary Prince of Hesse-Cassel took the Oath, in order to qualify himself for General of the Horse in Service of this State. He sets out on his Return to Hesse-Cassel within few Days; but is to visit the Courts of Hanover and Berlin before he goes thither. The Two Magistrates of Nimeguen, which were arrested by Order of the States of Guelderland on their Way from Utrecht to this Place, have been set at Liberty. The Troops which lay near Nimeguen, in order to awe the Town to an Obedience, have retired, and the Boats belonging to it are no longer detained; so that we have Reason to believe that Difference will be compos'd without any greater Consequence than the Change of some Magistrates. The States of Guelderland are to meet on the 2d or 3d of the next Month, to give their final Determination in that Affair. We hear from Brussels, That Mr. Cadogan and Monsieur Cronstrom were returned from Nivelle; but are obliged to be there again next Week; the French Commissaries having desir'd that Time for delivering their last Answer to the Propositions which have been made by those Ministers. Letters from the Upper Rhine acquaint us, That the Diet which was assembled at *Francfort, in order to forward the Preparations* against the next Campagne, had adjourned till after the approaching Festival. The Circle of Swabia computes the Loss which they have sustained by the late Invasion of the French at Four Millions of Florins. The write from Breslau, That, notwithstanding the many Artifices used by the Court of Rome, and the obstinate Resistance of the Silesian Clergy,

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